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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"**

## Statement submitted by International Muslim Women's Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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## Statement

On the wake of the 4th World Women Conference in Beijing in 1995 the International Muslim Women Union came into the international scene. It was established in 1996 and given special consultative status at the Economic and Social council of the United Nation.

Most of our leadership was present with active participation in Beijing. Hence the Beijing declaration and Platform of Action was present, (in its most areas of critical concern), in our strategy. Since the International Muslim Women Union is an international organization for Muslim women all over the globe, it embodies and caters to our vision, aspirations and ambitions. A vision based on the Islamic perspective and on Islamic approach towards all walks of life, without losing sight of the contemporary of issues in the international arena.

The International Muslim Women Union is very much concerned with eradication or rather alleviation of poverty. As such our projects are designed to meet this goal.

As mentioned earlier the International Muslim Women Union is a Platform for Muslim Women worldwide, it envisages a vision for a sounder world order, where conflicts are resolved, justice, equity peace and religious tolerance and co-existence, prevail.

The International Muslim Women Union is hosted by the generous country of Sudan. Out of gratitude and appreciation, we should mention that poverty situation is one of the challenges in this developing country, it is further aggravated by the unfair, unjustified and uncalled for unilateral sanction imposed on its people.

In actuality, women and children are the real victims facing challenges in education, health and social protection. Not to forget to mention the unrelieved debts' situation.

It is only opportune to mention that these situations are not exclusive to Sudan only, but other developing countries suffer the same tragic fate. The financial situation of these countries is critically affected which made the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals' indicators unreachable.

In the final analysis, we women under the International Muslim Women Union umbrella, call upon the international community to support these developing countries by working to relieve debts and uplift sanction, so as to enable them to achieve the sustainable development for post 2015 agenda.

Furthermore, we in the International Muslim Women Union hail and salute the noble struggle of women under occupation and show our solidarity towards the uprooted, displaced and women refugees.

International Muslim Women's Union is enhancing women's capacity to manage unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age empowerment of women girls to get their chance to enjoy their rights to education, employment, medical care, housing and other respects.

International Muslim Women's Union aims to empower women around the world and women who are especially literate and vulnerable. It also aims to develop their skills and interest in their health and education through the implementation of scholarships for some African students and the Midwifery Training Project.

Maternal mortality or childbirth is one of the main challenges that face African countries. The rate is estimated in some countries as more than 1,200 per 100,000 live births, which makes these countries at the bottom of the list to achieve the goals of

sustainable development. However, despite this steady increase in mortality, there are many opportunities to reduce mortality and provide excellent services for expectant mothers. These opportunities include midwifery training, which is an important strategy in achieving maternal and child health and to graduate significant number of African females in many scientific fields to achieve the objective of sustainable development.

International Muslim Women's Union is a voluntary and non-governmental organization, and its role is to assist women in African countries in general and Muslims in particular and vulnerable in the implementation of training courses in the field of maternal and child health and the project to ensure female students in the health fields in African Countries.

In view of the importance of the female students and their leading role, missionary and leadership in the societies, especially in African countries, which suffer from a shortage of health staff, the International Muslim Women's Union seeks to graduate the largest number of scientific competencies in this field by forming strategic partnerships with a number of Sudanese universities and institutions to provide an excellent educational environment for the incoming students under the terms and policies of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.